

Ellesmere Port Urban District
Council

ANNUAL

REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1946

by

W. J. BIRCHALL,
M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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INTRODUCTION

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ellesmere Port Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District for the year 1946.

The general state of health, both National and Local remains satisfactory, in spite of post-war difficulties in connection with food supplies and housing accommodation.

The Vital Statistics of the Urban District are as follows :—

The Death Rate is 9.6 per 1,000 estimated population, compared with 9.28 for 1945. The Death Rate for England and Wales is 11.5; the rate for 148 smaller towns is 12.3.

The Birth Rate is 22.09 per 1,000 population: in 1945 the rate was 20.4. The rate for England and Wales (1946) is 19.1.

The Infant Mortality Rate is 55.11 per 1,000 live births. The rate for 1945 was 46.8. The rate for England and Wales (1946) is 43.

There were nearly 100 more births in the Urban District in 1946 than in the previous year.

There were no epidemics of Infectious Disease during the year, and the general incidence was reasonably low. There were 6 cases of Diphtheria compared with 20 in 1945. There were no deaths from this disease.

Tuberculosis showed an increased number of new cases and a rise in the number of deaths.

During the early months of the year there was some anxiety concerning Smallpox. Large numbers of Service men and women were returning from the Far East, and sporadic cases of Smallpox occurred throughout the

country. There were, in addition, small outbreaks in neighbouring districts, and numerous contacts were kept under careful observation in the Urban District. The Public were urged to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated, and large numbers followed this advice. Fortunately, no cases occurred in the District.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Services were fully utilised during the year. The increased number of births and difficulties in Housing accommodation made increased demands on the limited Hospital Accommodation; and mothers and babies were of necessity allowed only the minimum stay in hospital. Much anxiety and additional responsibilities were felt by the Health Visiting Staff in consequence. It was found necessary to have additional sessions for Maternity and Child Welfare Work, to cope with the increasing numbers attending the Clinics.

The Council decided to continue the administration of the two Day Nurseries for a further two years. The attendances remain almost as high as during the war years, in spite of the return of many mothers from industry to their household duties. A persistent number of cases of Whooping Cough affected the Nursery at Little Sutton during July and August. The Nurseries have been fortunate to escape any serious dislocation of their work due to the ever present danger of infectious disease.

In the Sanitary Department, Housing problems and overcrowding continued to absorb the time and energy of the staff. It reached a climax in August when the various military camps in the Urban District were occupied by "Squatters." This added burden was tackled with prompt efficiency and sympathetic consideration by the Department. The Council decided to make the camps habitable by making necessary structural alterations and repairs. This work is done under the constant supervision and on the advice of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his assistants. The handling of the occupants and their problems has required abundant patience and tact, and has occupied much time. The Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff are deserving of high commendation for their work in this connection.

Regular inspection of foodstuffs, sampling of milk are carried out during routine work. It will be noticed in the section of the report by the Chief Sanitary Inspector on the inspection of farms and dairies, that 10 per cent of the samples examined for Tuberculosis were positive.

This is a matter of some concern and indicates the need for some revision of present legislation.

In conclusion, I beg to record my appreciation of the support I have received from the Members of the Public Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees. I am grateful also to the Staffs of those Departments for their loyal co-operation and help.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. J. BIRCHALL.

Medical Officer of Health.

ELLESMERE PORT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR, 1946.

The Urban District of Ellesmere Port includes the parishes of Great Stanney, Great Sutton and Ince and the greater parts of the parishes of Childer Thornton and Little Sutton, also parts of Hooton, Eastham, Thornton-le-Moors and Willaston.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON : K. LUCAS, M.B., CH.B.

AURAL SURGEON : R. MARTIN, M.B., B.CH.

GYNAECOLOGIST : MORRIS DATNOW, M.B., F.R.C.S. (EDIN.).

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR : E. TUFT, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR : J. P. GODDARD, CERT. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

CLERK IN THE DEPARTMENT : R. K. FRANCIS

(Now serving in H.M. Forces).

PUPIL INSPECTOR : D. E. JONES.

SHORTHAND TYPIST : MISS E. WHEELER.

CLERK-TYPIST : MISS R. LLOYD.

SENIOR HEALTH VISITOR : MISS M. B. REDFERN.

ASSISTANT HEALTH VISITORS :

MISS K. McKEE. MISS L. M. BATE.

CLERK, WELFARE CENTRE : MISS M. HAWKINS.

All Officers employed are fully qualified for the duties they perform and are holders of the recognised qualifications.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28,740
Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,144
Number of houses and flats in the area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,543
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£201,670
Sum represented by the Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£807

The Natural increase in Population (that is excess of births over deaths) is shewn in the following tables.

Natural Increase per 1,000			Natural Increase per 1,000		
Year.	Population.	Pop.	Year.	Population.	Pop.
1931	19,080	15.0	1939	26,920	11.75
1932	19,320	14.2	1940	28,160	9.8
1933	23,190	19.5	1941	28,530	9.25
1934	24,730	11.6	1942	27,950	11.16
1935	24,840	9.7	1943	27,560	15.5
1936	25,100	10.9	1944	27,220	13.44
1937	25,610	8.9	1945	27,160	10.9
1938	26,030	7.03	1946	28,740	12.49

The Natural increase in Population (that is excess of births over deaths) 1931—1946 (England and Wales).

Per 1,000						Per 1,000					
Year.						Year.					
Pop.						Pop.					
1931	...	...	...	...	3.5	1939	...	...	...	...	2.9
1932	...	...	...	...	3.3	1940	...	...	...	...	0.3
1933	...	...	...	...	2.1	1941	...	...	...	...	1.3
1934	...	...	...	...	3.0	1942	...	...	...	...	4.2
1935	...	...	...	...	2.9	1943	...	...	...	...	4.4
1936	...	...	...	...	2.7	1944	...	...	...	...	6.0
1937	...	...	...	...	2.7	1945	...	...	...	...	4.7
1938	...	...	...	...	3.5	1946	...	...	...	...	7.6

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1946.

(Compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General).

LIVE BIRTHS

						Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	300	297	597
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	17	21	38
						<hr/> 317	<hr/> 318	<hr/> 635

Birth Rate 22.09 per 1,000 population.

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (1946) in 148 smaller towns (population 25,000—50,000 Census 1931)—21.3.

STILL BIRTHS

						Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	7	9	16
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
						<hr/> 8	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 17

Still Birth rate 26.07 per 1,000 total live and still births or .59 per 1,000 of the population.

The average number of births per annum in the years 1931—1945 was 519.

TABLE OF NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES
1931—1945.

Year.	Number.	Birth Rate.	Year.	Number.	Birth Rate.
1931	458	24.0	1939	543	20.25
1932	442	22.9	1940	566	20.09
1933	467	20.1	1941	565	19.80
1934	518	20.9	1942	538	19.96
1935	470	18.9	1943	603	21.87
1936	503	20.04	1944	611	22.44
1937	483	18.86	1945	555	20.43
1938	476	18.28			

Birth Rate England and Wales 1946	19.1
Birth Rate England and Wales 1945	16.1
Birth Rate Administrative County of Cheshire 1945	16.7

DEATHS

Males.....153; Females.....123; Total.....276.

Death Rate 9.60 per 1,000 population.

TABLE OF NUMBER OF DEATHS AND CRUDE DEATH RATES
1931—1945.

Year.	Number.	Death Rate.	Year.	Number.	Death Rate
1931	169	8.9	1939	229	8.50
1932	171	8.9	1940	291	10.3
1933	222	9.6	1941	301	10.5
1934	231	9.3	1942	246	8.79
1935	229	9.2	1943	276	10.01
1936	227	9.0	1944	245	9.00
1937	254	9.91	1945	252	9.28
1938	293	11.26			

The average number of deaths per annum in the years 1931-1945 was 242.

The percentage of deaths occurring in Public Institutions was 51.4 per cent.

Death Rate—England and Wales 11.5 per 1,000 population.

Death Rate—148 smaller towns 11.7 per 1,000 population.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

						Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births.	Rate per 1,000 live Births.
Puerperal Sepsis						Nil	-	-
Other Puerperal Causes						Nil	-	-

The figures for England and Wales were :—

								Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births.
Puerperal Sepsis								0.18
Other Puerperal Causes								1.06
								<hr/> 1.24 <hr/>

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	Number.	Rate.
All infants per 1,000 live births	35	55.11
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	29	48.57
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	6	157.8

The figures for England and Wales were:—

All England and Wales	43.0
148 Smaller towns (estimated resident population 25,000-50,000 Census 1931)	37.0
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London) ...	45.0
London (Administrative County)	41.0

TABLE OF INFANT MORTALITY 1931—1945.

Year.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Year.	Rate per 1,000 Births.
1931	68.0	1939	58.93
1932	68.0	1940	63.3
1933	75.0	1941	72.9
1934	48.26	1942	35.8
1935	44.6	1943	71.3
1936	51.7	1944	34.3
1937	66.2	1945	46.85
1938	48.3		
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.		
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil.		
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	4		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	42		

Causes of Deaths

All Causes		Males	Females	Total
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	—	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	14	6	20
7.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	—	1	1
8.	Syphilis	1	1	2
9.	Influenza	1	—	1
10.	Measles	—	—	—
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio- encephalitis	—	—	—
12.	Acute Infective Encephalitis	—	1	1
13.	Cancer of the Mouth, Oesophagus, Uterus	2	1	3
14.	Cancer of the Stomach and Duodenum	4	2	6
15.	Cancer of the Breast	—	5	5
16.	Other forms of Cancer	18	10	28
17.	Diabetes	1	3	4
18.	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	15	14	29
19.	Heart Disease	34	28	62
20.	Other Circulatory Diseases	3	2	5
21.	Bronchitis	12	5	17
22.	Pneumonia	11	6	17
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	6	—	6
24.	Ulcer of the Stomach and Duodenum	2	1	3
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	3	1	4
26.	Appendicitis	1	2	3
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	2	3	5
28.	Nephritis	1	3	4
29.	Puerperal and post-abortive Sepsis...	—	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—
31.	Premature Birth	6	4	10
32.	Congenital Malformation, Birth injuries, etc.	1	5	6
33.	Suicide	1	2	3
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	2	1	3
35.	Other Violent Causes	4	5	9
36.	All Other Causes	8	11	19
		153	123	276

General Provision of the Health Services in the Area

The personnel comprising the administrative staff, together with their qualifications, is indicated at the beginning of this report.

The following services are available:—

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Chemical analysis and Bacteriological examination of water; also the Bacteriological examinations of Milk are carried out at the expense of the Urban District. Similarly the cost of the Bacteriological examination of throat swabs for suspected cases of Diphtheria, and the necessary investigation of any serious Infectious Disease epidemic is borne by the Urban District.

The Clinical Research Association and the Liverpool and Chester Laboratories are used for the investigation of disease at the public expense.

Food and Drugs administration is carried out by the County Council and their Officers submit samples for examination by the County Analyst.

The number of swabs examined for B. Diphtheria was 51.

There were 43 swabs all of which were returned negative and 8 nasal swabs, one of which was returned positive.

The number of specimens of sputa examined for B. Tuberculosis in the County Laboratory was 70. Of these 12 were returned positive and 58 negative.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For infectious cases, the Wirral Joint Hospital Board provides motor ambulances for the removal of patients and for the removal of bedding for steam disinfection.

(b) For non-infectious and accident cases, the Urban District provides two motor ambulances for use in connection with the District Hospital, Whitby. The Clatterbridge (County) General has four motor ambulances.

The Ambulance services are satisfactory.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) General. There is a District Nursing Organisation which provides a trained nurse in Ellesmere Port whose services are partially retained by the Council. Subscriptions from charitable persons and small charges for services rendered support the organisation. During the year 1943 the services of a District Nurse were obtained for the Parish of Little Sutton. This now appears satisfactory.

(b) For Infectious Diseases. There are no arrangements made for nursing Infectious cases in the home. In cases of Pneumonia the services of the District Nurse are available.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

These are held at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, York Road, Ellesmere Port. A second Child Welfare Centre was opened in Little Sutton in 1938 and full advantage has been taken by the residents in that area. The work of the Centres is purely of an advisory nature and no treatment is undertaken.

Orthopaedic, Aural and Ante-natal Clinics are organised under the supervision of Specialists.

A school clinic with Dental and Ophthalmic Services, is provided by the County Council and is held in the Welfare Centre.

HOSPITALS.

The Clatterbridge (County) General Hospital was appropriated for Public Health Purposes on the 1st April, 1935, being formerly known as the Clatterbridge (Wirral) Infirmary.

Maternity: Provision is made for maternity accommodation in the Clatterbridge (County) General Hospital, where the patients are under the supervision of the consulting Obstetrician who attends the Ante-natal Clinics. In this block there are 34 beds.

In addition there is a separate Maternity Home at Heswall, also under the supervision of the County Council.

The services of the consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist are available at the Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics held twice weekly at the Welfare Centre, and at any time if required in an emergency by a general practitioner in the district.

Children. Facilities exist for convalescent treatment of children needing such seen by the Medical Officer at the Welfare Centre. When such cases occur every endeavour is made to get them accommodated in the West Kirby Convalescent Home.

Scabies. The Scabies Centre which was opened in 1943 at the Central Hall, Ellesmere Port, was closed during the year, as the number of cases was so small as not to warrant the continuation of this service. The number of cases treated until closure in May, was 47 and 563 treatments given.

Head Lice. Each of the Day Nurseries have routine examination of heads and treatments are given as required. In some instances, children are also treated by the School Nurse at the Welfare Centre.

The treatment consists of routine washing with Derbac Soap and combing with a metal Derbac comb together with the use of the standard treatment of Lethane Oil as suggested by the Ministry of Health.

Fevers. The Wirral Joint Isolation Board serves the District for Infectious Disease Cases. The District of such Board comprises the Wirral Area of the Administrative County of Cheshire, including Chester Rural District.

The main Infectious Diseases Hospital of the Board is situated at Clatterbridge and has the following accommodation :—

24 Beds for Diphtheria.

26 Beds for Scarlet Fever.

12 Cubicles for Isolation, 14 beds.

3 Small wards of 12 beds each, 36 beds to be used as required.

Provision has been made to receive Encephalitis patients and under certain conditions beds may be available for Measles and Whooping Cough.

Ellesmere Port and District Hospital: This Hospital contains 36 beds and eight cots. It is managed by a voluntary Board.

The staff consists of the Local Medical Practitioners, a Resident Doctor, a Matron, five qualified nurses, eight unqualified nurses and one Masseuse.

The visiting staff consists of one Physician, two Surgeons, one Gynaecologist, one Ophthalmic Surgeon, one Aural Surgeon, one Orthopaedic Surgeon, one Radiologist and one Anaesthetist.

Arrangements exist between the Hospital and the Council whereby children can be sent by the Medical Officer from the Welfare Centre for courses of artificial sunlight treatment.

MIDWIVES.

There are nine midwives practising in the District, five of whom are employed by the County Council.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The prevalence of Infectious Diseases during the period 1935-1946 is shown in the following table which gives the case rate per 1,000 of the population.

Year.	Small- pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Enteric Fever.	Erysip- elas.	Whooping Measles.	Cough.
1935	0.00	10.50	8.60	0.00	0.56		
1936	0.00	3.82	5.06	0.04	0.27		
1937	0.00	5.85	7.77	0.00	0.16		
1938	0.00	13.7	9.08	0.15	0.26		
1939	0.00	3.30	2.08	0.14	0.33		
1940	0.00	1.59	1.13	0.03	0.31	1.34	0.03
1941	0.00	1.12	0.7	0.07	0.14	9.07	0.14
1942	0.00	1.14	5.90	0.00	0.03	1.57	0.07
1943	0.00	3.08	12.51	0.00	0.00	10.26	0.18
1944	0.00	2.56	2.09	0.00	0.07	0.62	0.47
1945	0.00	9.46	0.73	0.00	0.22	10.19	0.00
1946	0.00	3.47	0.20	0.00	0.20	0.38	0.24

The corresponding notification rates for England and Wales are as follows.—

Year.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Enteric Fever.	Erysip- elas.	Whooping Measles.	Cough
1935	2.96	1.60	0.04	0.42		
1936	2.53	1.39	0.06	0.40		
1937	2.33	1.49	0.05	0.37		
1938	2.41	1.58	0.03	0.40		
1939	1.89	1.14	0.04	0.34		
1940	1.63	1.16	0.07	0.33	10.24	1.34
1941	1.47	1.25	0.03	0.30	10.33	4.39
1942	2.19	1.05	0.01	0.30	7.46	1.73
1943	3.01	0.88	0.02	0.31	9.88	2.54
1944	2.40	0.58	0.01	0.29	4.16	2.49
1945	1.89	0.46	0.02	0.25	11.67	1.64
1946	1.38	0.28	0.03	0.22	3.92	2.28

There were no notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia in 1946. The corresponding notification rate for England and Wales per 1,000 births (live and still) is 8.50.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR, 1946.

DISEASE.					Total Cases Notified.	Total cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	100	88	-
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	6	6	-
Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	1	-
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	11	2	-
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	7	2	-
Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	6	3	-
Infantile Paralysis ... ..	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
					133	103	1

Of the six cases of Diphtheria three were stated to have been immunised.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1 year	0	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5 years	1	5	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
5 — 15 years	5	15	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
15 — 25 years	15	25	3	7	—	1	—	3	—	—
25 — 35 years	25	35	8	5	—	—	2	3	—	1
35 — 45 years	35	45	5	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
45 — 55 years	45	55	2	—	—	1	3	—	—	—
55 — 65 years	55	65	4	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 Upwards	65		—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
			23	12	3	3	14	6	—	1

TABLE SHOWING DISTRIBUTION IN WARDS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CASES.

Disease	North East	North West	South	Whitby	Stanley	Victoria	Pool and Hooton	Childer Thornton	Little Sutton	Great Sutton	Grange	Ince	Total
Scarlet Fever	1	3	11	36	5	15	6	—	6	7	10	—	100
Diphtheria	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	6
Erysipelas	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	6
Measles	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	—	11
Whooping Cough	1	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	7
Meningitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	5	8	2	—	6	2	—	6	1	4	1	35
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	6
	2	9	26	45	5	23	9	1	21	11	21	1	174

TABLE OF AGE GROUPS, SHOWING THE TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS, 1946.

Disease	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total		0		1		2		3		4		5		10		15		20		35		45		65		Over	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Dysentery	133	1	—	—	1	—	3	1	2	1	2	1	5	2	9	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	3	2	—	—	
	100	0	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	3	1	8	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Scarlet Fever	6	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Diphtheria	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	1	—	—	
	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Measles	11	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough	7	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Meningitis	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pneumonia	22	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC

Dr. K. Lucas reports as follows for the Ellesmere Port Orthopaedic Clinic, together with a statistical analysis.

Twenty sessions were held, at which 95 new cases were seen, and 525 examinations were made (an average of 26 cases per session).

MASSAGE AND REMEDIAL EXERCISE DEPARTMENT.

74 sessions were held by the Physiotherapist, during which a total of 838 treatments were given to the 80 cases on the register.

	In relation to School Age :		
	Under.	Of.	Total.
Number of patients treated	9	71	80
Number of attendances of Cases	61	777	838
Number of New Cases referred for treatment	8	27	35
Number of Cases in which treatment has been terminated	2	23	25

TABLE 1.

0—5 years	Under Treatment 1st January, 1946	Admitted in 1946	Discharged in 1946		Remaining under Treatment 31st December, 1946
			Cured or ceased to attend	Became of School Age	
Congenital Defects					
Deformities of limbs and spine, Torticollis, Spastic Paralysis,	26	9	21	4	10
Acquired Defects					
Deformities of lower limbs, Defects of posture, Results of injury, Rickets,	73	35	70	3	35
Tuberculous Infections	3	—	1	2	—
Infections other than Tuberculous					
Infantile Paralysis, Septic Arthritis- Osteomyelitis,	2	2	2	—	2
Unspecified	11	7	11	4	3
Totals	115	53	105	13	50

TABLE 2.

5—15 years	Under Treatment 1st January, 1946	Admitted in 1946	Discharged in 1946	Under Treatment 31st December, 1946
Congenital Defects				
Deformities of limbs and spine.	9	13	10	12
Torticollis.				
Spastic Paralysis.				
Acquired Defects				
Deformities of lower limbs.				
Defects of posture.	64	19	35	48
Results of injury.				
Rickets.				
Tuberculous Infections (Including over-age—16 years).				
	5	2	2	5
Infections other than Tuberculous				
Infantile Paralysis.	3	2	4	1
Septic Arthritis.				
Osteomyelitis.				
Unspecified				
	6	6	10	2
Totals	87	42	61	68

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

*The following report is supplied
by the Senior Health Visitor.*

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS AND HEALTH VISITING.

During the year 635 births were notified, of these 17 were still-births.

324 of these were born in Hospital or Nursing Homes.

311 were born in their own homes.

8,893 visits were paid by the Health Visitors in the homes during the years as follows:—

1st visits to infants	669
Re-visits to infants	2,400
Re-visits to children, 1—5 years	4,981
Infant Life Protection Visits	75
Pre-natal visits	294
Incidental visits	474
	<hr/>
	8,893
	<hr/>

Routine visits are paid at regular intervals to babies from the time the midwife finishes her attendance until the child enters school.

Instructions and advice are given on the management of young children, diet, general rules of health and hygiene—the primary object being the prevention of ill health and disease. For this purpose information is given systematically on vaccination and immunisation against Diphtheria. Minor ailments are dealt with, but in more serious conditions the mother is always advised to see her own doctor. Any sanitary defects found in the house are referred to the Sanitary Inspector. The advice of the nurse is often sought on matters relating to the family budget, economic difficulties, and other domestic problems.

All mothers attending the Ante-natal Clinic are visited in their homes if they do not attend the clinic regularly.

Visits to school children include visits to foster children, and cases of infectious illness including diphtheria contacts.

Incidental calls include visits to midwives, schools, attendance officers and voluntary organisations with whom there is close co-operation.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

2,837 attendances were made at this clinic which is held twice weekly on Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock and Friday morning at 9 o'clock.

508 mothers attended for the first time.

2,323 further attendances were made.

6 post-natal cases were examined.

This is a very busy clinic as so much personal attention must be given to each patient. A detailed history is taken, urine tested, blood pressure registered of all new patients and any who show abnormal symptoms. In such cases arrangements are made for X-ray examination, and when necessary admission to hospital.

Clerical work includes letters to doctors, hospitals and midwives, notes for milk, rations, coal, etc., exemption from work.

Medicines are dispensed at cost price.

STILL - BIRTHS.

17 still-births were registered — these were due to the following causes :—

Abnormality of foetus	5
No apparent cause	5
Ante-partum haemorrhage	3
Poor health of mother	2
Albuminuria	1
Pre-natal shock	1

8 of these attended the Ante-natal Clinic. In 6 cases their confinement took place in hospital.

Of the eight who attended the Clinic,

3 were due to no apparent cause.

2 to ante-partum haemorrhage.

1 to abnormality of foetus.

1 to albuminuria.

1 to pre-natal shock.

Of the 7 who were born at home, 3 had received Ante natal care from their own Doctor.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

35 infants died under the age of one year.

12 children died between the age of one and five years.

The following shows the causes of deaths:—

Broncho-pneumonia ...	9	Marasmus	1
Lobar-pneumonia	2	Congenital Atelectasis ..	1
Asphyxia	4	Hydrocephalus	1
Premature child	10	Circulatory Diseases ...	1
Gastro enteritis	3	Aspiration Pneumonia ,	1
Congenital Syphilis ...	1	Congenital Myelo	
		Meningocele	1

25 of these deaths occurred during the first three months of these 8 died in the first month and 12 in the first week.

PREMATURE INFANTS.

16 babies were born prematurely. 9 of these were born in hospital.

5 babies died during the first 24 hours, and two others who were admitted to hospital from their own homes died during the first month, and 2 others later. Of the 7 surviving all are thriving and attended the Welfare Centre.

13 of the 15 mothers attended the Ante-natal Clinic and prematurity was due to worry, debility, haemorrhage, to frequent pregnancies and twin birth.

Home conditions were good in all but two cases and these were admitted to hospital at once.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

432 children were inoculated against diphtheria.

281 in Ellesmere Port.

115 in Little Sutton.

36 school-children.

Arrangements are made with the Head Teachers to give the mother a consent form when the child enters school. If this is done the teacher brings her new children to the clinic at the beginning of each term.

Through the continued efforts of the Health Visitors 90 out of every 100 children admitted to school are immunised, so that very few school-children have had to be sent up this year.

156 visits were paid to children suffering from Measles, Whooping Cough, Chicken Pox and Mumps.

AURAL CLINIC.

This clinic is held on the first Monday of each month at 9-30 a.m.

37 children attended for the first time.

Those who required daily attention responded quickly to treatment.

Those who do not attend regularly are visited in their homes and encouraged to take advantage of the facilities offered.

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

This clinic is held twice a month on first and third Monday afternoons at 2 p.m.

Massage and Remedial Exercises are given twice weekly on Monday and Thursday afternoons at 2 p.m., by a trained Physio-Therapist. We are glad to welcome Miss McClland in this capacity and the children have responded well in her care.

Orthopaedic alterations in their shoes ordered by the surgeon are done at Leasowe Hospital and supervised by him.

Any children requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Leasowe Open Air Hospital of which he is the Medical Superintendent.

This forms a complete service under one Medical Officer.

HOME HELPS.

This service has been in operation for three years and is gaining favour with the mothers but the applications are erratic, some weeks no one needing the service and in others two or three requiring it at the same time. On this account four separate persons have been operating rather than one full time officer, two in Ellesmere Port and two in Little Sutton. In all cases satisfaction has been expressed.

As the Home Help must be an adaptable person, full of resource and initiative, fond of children and able to manage them, a good cook, able when necessary to make much out of little, it can be appreciated that such persons are difficult to find. Those so qualified are already employed so it is one of our most exacting duties to cater for this service satisfactorily.

Fees have been refunded, most of them at the full amount required, some a little under but all according to income.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

Two sessions are held weekly at Ellesmere Port on Tuesday and Friday afternoons and once weekly at Little Sutton on Monday afternoons.

				LITTLE SUTTON
First visits of mothers	...	...	434	126
First visits of infants	...	...	372	102
First visits of children 1—5 years			31	7
				<hr/>
				837
				<hr/>
Revisits of mothers	...	...	4422	2407
Revisits of infants	...	...	3582	1872
Revisits of children 1—5 years			1019	678
				<hr/>
				9023
				<hr/>
				4957
				<hr/>

The Medical Officer of Health attended at each clinic. 850 consultations were held in Ellesmere Port. 312 in Little Sutton.

Following the Medical examination of these children, those needing supervision by a Specialist were referred to the Aural, Orthopaedic, Dental, and Eye Clinics.

The Centres are being used to their fullest capacity, the mothers who come are very definitely seeking up-to-date information on the care of their children. It is unfortunate that the accommodation at Little Sutton is unworthy of the work that is carried on there. The Centre grows steadily and all who work in it are looking forward to the day when we shall own our own building as in Ellesmere Port.

No praise can be too high for the work of the voluntary committee at each Centre. Their prompt attention to the duties they undertake and their friendly spirit to the mothers ease the administration considerably.

In co-operation with the Food Office extra food and vitamins are given out at the Infant Welfare Centre Sessions and it is hoped that this convenient arrangement has caused more mothers to take advantage of this service.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

FOSTER CHILDREN.

8 children were in the care of 7 foster mothers.

In each case the home and children were under the supervision of the Health Visitors and all were happy and well cared for.

Another application was made but the home was found to be unsuitable, so permission to act as foster mother was refused.

3 children were placed in the district by the Church of England Children's Society and close co-operation exists between such bodies and the Public Health Department.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN ACT.

16 children have been legally adopted during the year, making a total of 38 adopted children under supervision. In those cases undertaken by the Adoption Society, the Public Health Department has been notified and the Health Visitors asked to supervise the probation period before the adoption finally takes place.

The Adoption Society requires a report on the house before the baby is sent, monthly visits to the child when received, and in case of a child going out of the district a complete medical examination, often carried out by the Medical Officer of Health.

There is full co-operation between the Health Visiting Staff, the Education Authority, the Lancashire and Cheshire Adoption Society, that being the nearest Voluntary Organisation, and the Girls' Home in Chester. In all cases of adoption the Health Visitor was the link between the Adoption Society, the private adopter and the mother of the baby.

THE CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

Ministry's Circular, No. 2866.

21 illegitimate children were born in 1946. In comparison with 42 in 1945. Of these unmarried mothers 11 attended the Ante-natal Clinic, the remaining 10 being under the supervision of the County Midwives or their own Doctor in their own homes.

4 have been adopted, and 3 of these have left the district. 2 died, both in hospital.

2 others left the district with their mother and were transferred to the Medical Officer of the district to which they went.

Most of the remaining babies are brought to the Infant Welfare Centres, and all are under the supervision of the Health Visiting Staff.

CLERICAL WORK.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Notifications of Birth register is kept and a record made for each child. Weekly returns of these births are made for the County Medical Officer and the Registrar.

Details of each visit paid are entered on the child's card and any reference to attendance at the Child Welfare Centre, so that a complete medical history is given to the School Medical Officer on the child's first school medical examination. Over 600 births mean that 30,000 of these records are made. A daily record of visits is kept.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES AND SPECIAL CLINICS.

Registers are kept and a record of each attendance with particulars of Doctor's consultations.

Ante-natal Clinic.

In addition to a register and records being kept, medical certificates have to be given for rations and clothing, dockets for sheets, and letters to Doctors, Nurses and Hospitals.

Infant Life Protection.

A register is kept, together with details of each child and its home environment. Much time is spent on interviews and correspondence in relation to these children, especially when adoption is contemplated.

Accounts.

Over £2,000 was handled by this department. The sale of food entails a great deal of clerical work. Orders have to be sent, stocks checked, accounts checked and verified, signed and submitted to the Accountant, weekly returns made and registered. All this has to be fitted between clinics and visiting.

The time has come, is really overdue, when we must ask if another Health Visitor can be appointed. The Ministry of Health's ruling has been one Health Visitor for 200 births, but with the additional duties they have laid upon us and extra clinics this number has been too many. The births are increasing and in addition the district has grown and spread greatly. For some time past it has been found increasingly difficult to keep visits up-to-date, and home visiting is a point on which the Ministry have been very strict.

250 more houses have been built since the last appointment was made ten years ago, with a further prospect of 400, this will comprise a new district.

My time is becoming more and more engaged with private interviews, telephone calls, correspondence and accounts, that I have the greatest difficulty in being on the district at all. Until we get help it will be necessary for us to curtail some of the home visiting, but we are loath to do this as we know how important it is when striving to keep up the high standard of Maternity and Child Welfare Work on which the Health Committee and our staff have always prided themselves.

I would not like to close my report without expressing my thanks to my colleagues, the voluntary committee at the Welfare Centres, Nurse Lunt who has done holiday duty for us, and Miss Hawkins, who has adapted herself well to her completely new form of clerical work.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water.

The mains of the West Cheshire Water Board supply practically all the entire area (with the exception of Ince), and from them there is a plentiful supply of excellent water.

The supply is laid into the houses from the West Cheshire Water Board's mains, with the exception of a group of sixteen cottages in Stanney Lane which are supplied by three stand-pipes, a pair of cottages at Netherpool by one stand-pipe, a bungalow and two cottages at Great Sutton by one stand-pipe, a cottage in Great Stanney and a house in Little Sutton which obtains its supply from a private well.

At Ince, water is supplied by the Council under the Public Health Act, 1936, through stand-pipes, by means of a bulk supply obtained from the Chester Rural District Council. In addition, a number of houses now have an internal supply.

The water is in piped supply from the pumping stations at Hooton, Prenton and Mouldsworth. At the Hooton station the water goes through the softening process but at Prenton and Mouldsworth softening operations have been temporarily suspended.

During the year 68 samples were taken for Bacteriological examination and six samples for Chemical analysis from the flamed tap in the softening house of the three pumping stations.

The following are the results of a sample of water taken for Bacteriological examination from the pumping station at Mouldsworth on the 11th November, 1946, and this is a fair specimen of the average result from all 68 samples throughout the year.

Similarly appended, is a copy of the analyst's report on the Chemical analysis of a sample taken from the pumping station at Hooton on the 12th December, 1946, here again this is a satisfactory sample which does not differ in any major respect from the other six samples for chemical analysis made during the year, with the exception of the fact that all the samples taken from the Mouldsworth and Prenton pumping stations were hard in character, though not to a degree which could be considered unsatisfactory.

**BACTERIOLOGICAL REPORT ON THE
EXAMINATION OF A SAMPLE OF WATER.**

Received 12/11/46, from West Cheshire Water Board.

Labelled : Mouldsworth Pumping Station. Flamed tap in softening house.
Raw water before chlorination.

Date : 11/11/46 ; 12 noon Taken by : D. R. Kitchingman.
Witness : S. Crawford. Signed : D. R. Kitchingman.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 370 C. in one day	0
Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre of millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 370 C. in two days	0
Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre of millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 200 C. in in three days	0
Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in Bile-salt Lactose Broth after two days incubation at 370 C. (Presumptive Bacillus Coli Test)	Absent from 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of water containg the Bacillus Coli	Absent from 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of the B. Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes)	Absent from 100 c.c

This is a very satisfactory sample of raw water. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity, indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

Signed : Gordon Miles, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS ON THE EXAMINATION OF A SAMPLE OF WATER.

Analysis of a sample of water received on the 16/12/46. from the West Cheshire Water Board, labelled Hooton Pumping Station. Flamed tap in softening house after filtration, softening and chlorination.

Taken by: C. Hardman Witness: T. T. Lunt.

Date: 12/12/46: 11.25 a.m.

Chemical Results in parts per 100,000						
Appearance	...	...	...	...	...	Clear and bright.
Colour...	...	...	...	...	...	Normal. Odour Nil.
Reaction pH	...	...	...	...	...	Neutral 7.3. Free Carbonic Acid 1.6.
Electric Conductivity at 200 C.	...	...	...	...	...	700. Alkalinity as calcium carbonate 23.6.
Total Solids, 1800 C.	...	...	...	...	...	47.0.
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	...	9.6.
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	...	...	0.06. Nitrites absent.
Hardness: Permanent	...	...	...	...	...	0.0.
Temporary	...	...	...	...	...	13.5.
Total	...	...	...	...	...	13.5.
Metals...	...	...	...	...	...	Iron: less than 0.003. Other metals absent.
Free Ammonia...	...	...	...	...	...	0.004 Ammoniacal Nitrogen —
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.0000 Albuminoid Nitrogen —
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at						
800F.	...	...	...	...	...	0.000
'Free Chlorine Reaction'	...	...	...	...	...	Absent.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from an insignificant trace of iron. Its hardness is very moderate and it is free from any excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. The water conforms to the highest standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed): Roy C. Hoather.

The following information has been supplied by the Engineer to the West Cheshire Water Board:—

- (1) Particulars of any new sources of public supply.

New Bore Hole operations in progress at Hooton, but not yet completed or tested.

- (2) Improvements to existing sources of public supply.

Chemical and Bacteriological analysis reports throughout the year have been of satisfactory order, and distribution has been maintained throughout the district.

- (3) Any important extension of mains.

Housing Sites within the area of administration of your Council, comprising the following Estates:—

(a) Wolverham.

(b) Stanney.

(c) Overpool.

- (4) Have piped supplies been satisfactory in quality and quantity ?

There has been, in some cases there still exists, a large demand for metered trade supplies, which have in some localities caused diminution in pressures, but generally speaking, relative to the areas with which you are concerned, the answer to this question is in the affirmative.

- (5) Is any part of the district in need of an improved water supply ?

I am not aware of any complaints having been received relative to the general question of water supply in the Ellesmere Port area, but occasionally complaints have been received concerning the hardness of the water.

LIST OF LOCAL OR ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS, ORDERS OR REGULATIONS IN FORCE (so far as unrepealed) IN THE URBAN DISTRICT.

Ellesmere Port and Whitby Urban District Council Act, 1914.				
Subject Matter	Authority by whom made	Area in which in force	Date	Date of Confirmation
Ellesmere Port and Whitby Urban District Council Act, 1914.				
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890	...	...	Adopted	1902
Private Street Works Act, 1892	...	...	...	1902
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890 (Parts 2, 3, 4, 5)	...	...	...	1902
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 (Parts 2, 4 and 6)	...	...	...	1909
Public Libraries Act, 1892	...	...	...	1907
Order declaring certain trades to be offensive within the district...	...	...	...	1911
Public Health Act, 1925 (Part 2 except section 20)	...	...	...	1937
Libraries	Ellesmere Port U.D.C.	Whole Urban Area	30/11/1936	13/1/1937
Pleasure Grounds	ditto	ditto	25/ 1/1937	31/5/1937
New Streets and Buildings	Ellesmere Port & Whitby U.D.C.	Parishes of Ellesmere Port and Great Stanney	26/10/1925	12/1/1926
Tents, Vans and similar Structures	Wirral Rural District Council...	Parishes of Great Sutton, Little Sutton and Hooton	19/ 2/1923	5/4/1923
*Omnibuses	ditto	ditto	19/11/1923	15/1/1925
Offensive Trades	ditto	ditto	17/11/1924	8/1/1925
Buildings	ditto	ditto	17/11/1924	12/1/1925
Cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Ashpits & Cesspools	Chester Rural District Council	Parish of Ince	28/ 2/1923	28/4/1924
Building Bye-laws	Ellesmere Port U.D.C.	Whole Urban Area	29/ 1/1940	11/7/1940

* These were in effect repealed by Section 122 and the 5th Schedule to the Road Traffic Act, 1930, which repeals the Town Police Clauses Act, 1889, so far as it related to public service vehicles.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Annual Report Of The Chief Sanitary Inspector

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Result of Service of
Notices and Number Served.

Nature of Inspections	Number	Informal	Formal	Complied with	Remaining in hand
Dwelling Houses (General)	363	274	55	216	58
Dwelling Houses (Public Health Act, 1936)	17	—	1	1	—
Revisits to work in progress	1288	—	—	—	1
Schools	8	1	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, Sheds, Caravans	21	—	—	—	—
Back Yards	1766	771	28	769	2
Privies, Cesspools, Septic Tanks, etc. ...	9	5	—	5	—
Drainage Inspections	53	10	—	10	—
Drainage Tests	39	—	—	—	—
Ditches and Watercourses	25	6	4	6	—
Offensive Accumulations	11	3	—	3	—
Keeping of Animals	4	2	—	2	—
Offensive Trades	1	1	—	1	—
Food Premises	225	41	—	34	7
Shops Inspections	31	—	—	—	—
Factories (Mobile)	37	9	—	6	3
Factories (Non-Mobile)	2	2	—	2	—
Piggeries	2	—	—	—	—
Cowsheds	46	5	—	5	—
Dairies and Purveyors' Premises	31	3	—	3	—
Canal Boats	43	—	16	8	8
Infectious Diseases, Enquiries	133	—	—	—	—
Other Visits	74	—	—	—	—
Disinfections	154	—	—	—	—
Verminous Premises	72	47	—	47	—
Disinfestations	100	—	—	—	—
Rat Infestations	9	73	—	73	—
Scabies, Enquires	27	—	—	—	—
Other Visits	5	—	—	—	—
Samples of milk submitted for Bacteriological examination	98	—	—	—	—
Interviews, (Outside Office)	195	—	—	—	—
Refuse Disposal Site	3	—	—	—	—
References to Other Departments	10	—	—	—	—
Former Military Camps "Squatters" ...	114	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous Visits	680	15	—	15	—
TOTALS	5696	1268	104	1206	79

Public Health Act, 1936.

In eleven instances, warning letters were sent by the Clerk of the Council to the Owners concerned, in respect of of the non-compliance with Statutory Notices served upon them under this Act, prior to any legal proceedings being instituted against them. All the notices were complied with satisfactorily, without further action.

Certificates have again been issued during the year to local builders in support of their applications for controlled materials, in order to enable them to carry out essential repairs to property in this district.

Housing conditions generally, still cause concern to the department and many complaints of overcrowding have been received. The standard of Maintenance repairs to property is still below that of pre-war level, due mainly to shortage of labour and materials. More Notices were served during the year than ever before.

The problem of the sub-standard house is a complex one, and difficulty is experienced to know just what to do with this type of dwelling in order to maintain a reasonable standard for human habitation, until the acute housing shortage has been relieved. Nevertheless, this type of cottage should be dealt with at the first available period and in the near future a survey carried out. This would shew the number of new houses required in lieu of those recommended for demolition.

A detailed report was presented to the Health Committee upon instructions, relative to the general condition of a group of 16 cottages in Stanney Lane. The matter received careful consideration and Statutory Notices were served upon the Agents for the Trustees of the Property, requiring conversion of the W.C. accommodation, provision of an internal water supply and scullery sinks. Negotiations between the Owners and the Council are still proceeding regarding these matters.

One application was received and a licence granted, for permission to use a trailer caravan for human habitation. The licence was for a period of twelve months. All essential services were provided.

During the year under review 760 dust bins were supplied and delivered to premises, including Council houses on receiving payment from the Owners. Difficulty has again been experienced in endeavouring to keep pace with this important matter, owing to the delay in securing delivery of the bins from the manufacturers. Several Owners of domestic property now readily avail themselves of this service, which saves time and the service of notices, and is appreciated.

In addition to letters received requesting an inspection of premises, 552 verbal complaints were given at the office. This is a further increase over previous years.

Squatters.

In common with many other districts, Military Camps were occupied by squatters during the month of August. Three camps being involved.

The Council instructed that essential services should be made available and this was carried out. It was later decided by the Council and the Ministry of Health to convert all huts which were suitable, into separate units comprising two and three bedrooms, with kitchen and scullery combined. All nissen huts to be demolished when the tenants were transferred into these converted units. Those not already occupied were demolished forthwith. This work was proceeding at the close of the year, under the supervision of the Council's Surveyor with the Chief Sanitary Inspector being responsible for the suppression of any nuisance and the general well-being of the camps.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

The number of houses found to be infested during the year was:—

(a) Council Houses	...	...	...	...	17
(b) Other Houses	...	...	...	...	17
(c) Number Disinfested	...	...	...	...	34
(d) Total Visits	...	...	...	...	122

The number of Council houses treated, shew an increase over the previous year's figure. In certain sections of the district, the standard of cleanliness still remains unsatisfactory.

All infested houses were treated with liquid and powder form of D.D.T., with satisfactory results. It is not generally considered now necessary to have wood-work removed in the bedrooms to facilitate disinfestation, due to the effective delayed action of D.D.T.

The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority through the staff of the Sanitary Department.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There are two sewage disposal works in the district. The works at Little Stanney were newly erected during the year 1933, and designed for a population of 20,000; whilst the disposal works at Sunnyside Pontoon, known as the Town works, were re-constructed and designed for a population of 7,000. A small area is still drained under the Manchester Ship Canal to the River Mersey without treatment.

The Parish of Ince is rural in character and completely unsewered. The most recent dwellings erected in Ince are drained to approved septic tanks and filter beds, the effluent being discharged into the nearby watercourse. It is hoped that the Council, in the near future, will seriously consider the question of the sewerage of this part of the district.

The following lengths of new sewers were laid in the district during the year:—

Foul water sewers:	Nil.
Surface water sewers:	700 Lineal yards.
Total:	700 Lineal yards.

Rivers and Streams.

The small River Gowy is within the Urban District and is bordered partly by oil works and partly by fenny lands. It is tide-locked, where it is syphoned below the Manchester Ship Canal to discharge into the River Mersey.

Closest Accommodation.

The greater part of the district is provided with clean water closets, but on the outskirts of the town where sewers are not yet available some pails, privies, cesspools and septic tanks are in use.

Swimming Pool.

The Rivacre Valley Swimming Pool is owned by the Council and has a swimming area of 1,567 square yards.

The water passes through a continuous bath purification plant, which embodies two horizontal air-scoured pressure filters with a circulation pump capable of circulating the total contents of the Pool in a period of eight hours.

Two samples of water were taken for Bacteriological examination and were reported highly satisfactory.

Schools.

There are three Council Secondary Schools, nine Council Primary Schools and four Denominational Schools in the district.

All the schools are supplied with piped water from the West Cheshire Water Board's mains.

The Head Teachers of the various schools are immediately notified on the occurrence of cases of Infectious Diseases in order to secure the exclusion of the contacts for the necessary period.

During the vacation, and at other times when found necessary, the school rooms are thoroughly disinfected.

Canal Boats.

43 boats were inspected during the year and these were registered to carry 120 adults and 54 children.

The actual number found to be in occupation was 79 adults and 28 children.

Sixteen Statutory Notices were served and eight remained in hand at the close of the year.

Factories Act, 1937.

1. Inspections.

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspect- ions (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	13	3	2	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies ...	2	79	37	7	—	2
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Others ...	3	—	—	—	—	3
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	4	—	—	—	—	4
TOTAL ...		92	40	9	—	

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	5	2	2	—	1	—	5
Overcrowding (S.2)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)... ..	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)... ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)	10	1	—	—	—	—	10
(a) Insufficient							
(b) Unsuitable or de- fective... ..	11	4	4	—	2	—	11
(c) Not separate for sexes	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Other offences (not includ- ing offences relating to Home-work)	13	—	—	—	—	—	13
TOTAL ...		7	6	—	3	—	

HOUSING.

1.	<i>Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year.</i>	
1.	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts).	271
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1288
2.	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932.	17
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	34
3.	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	1
4.	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	30
2.	<i>Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice.</i>	
	Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	14
3.	<i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year.</i>	
A.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	1
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices. ...	1
	(a) By Owners	1
	(b) By Local Authority	Nil.

B. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	49
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:—	
(a)	By Owners	39
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(c)	Remaining in hand	10

C. Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	Nil.
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	Nil.

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, but tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are 35 registered cowkeepers, 15 dairies and 14 milk-shops in the district. In addition 16 milk purveyors bring milk into the district from outside and there are two registered wholesalers resident outside the area.

The Register shows the following entries:—

Cowkeepers (Wholesale Producers.)	...	...	26
Cowkeepers (Retail Producers.)	...	...	9
Dairies and Milk Shops.	...	...	29
—			
Total Registered Milk Dealers in the district.			64
Wholesalers resident outside the district.			2
Retailers distributing milk into the district from outside.	...	...	14
—			
Total number of Milk Dealers on the Register.	...	...	80
—			

98 samples of milk were obtained and sent to the bacteriologist for examination. Each sample taken at the farm was done so during the early morning milking and examined as follows:—

Accredited Farms — Standard for this designation plus examination for Tuberculosis.

Commercial Farms — Tuberculosis, *Bacillus coli* and Colony Count.

Of the 60 samples examined for Tuberculosis, six were reported positive and 54 negative. This constitutes 10 per cent. being positive of the total number examined and is an increase over previous years' figures.

In regard to these positive samples, the reports received from the Divisional Office, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, indicate that 11 cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938. Mention is made in the reports, of animals being sold for slaughter, and animals sold since the sample was obtained.

Of the 94 samples so examined on the standard of cleanliness or the keeping quality of the milk, 73 or 68.6 per cent. were satisfactory. This is a further improvement over the previous year.

Six dealer's licences were issued by the Local Authority under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1946.

The closest co-operation is maintained with the Assistant County Sanitary Officer in matters relative to accredited farms and this is greatly appreciated.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Food Premises. No applications for registration of food premises were received during the year under review.

There are 58 premises in the district registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act.

Careful attention has been paid to all food premises and 225 visits were paid during the year. The standard of cleanliness is satisfactory.

48 special visits were paid to food premises at the request of the owners and the following foods were rejected:—

2 (6 lb.) tins meat.	(Various Types).
4 (2 lb.) tins Meat.	(Various Types.)
2 (1½ lb.) tins Meat	(Various Types.)
43 (1 lb.) tins Meat	(Various Types.)
21 (12 oz.) tins Meat	(Various Types.)

59 tins Peas.	3 tins Fruit.
35 tins Beans.	1 (10 lb.) tin Cheese.
103 tins Fish.	8 tins Soup.
444 tins Milk.	

— Blown tins and Decomposition.

4 cwt. 70 lb. Potatoes.	2 jars Beetroot.
86 Eggs.	3 packets Semolina.
1 cwt. Flour.	2 lb. 14 oz. Cheese.
14 lb. Fish.	31½ lb. Beef.

— Unfit for human consumption.

An inspection was requested of a Sweets and General Shop following a fire which had occurred at the premises.

The undermentioned in this instance were found to be unsatisfactory for human consumption and rejected.

7 lb. Cakes.	1½ lb. Beans.
74½ lb. Sweets.	7 jars Yeast Spread.
5 jars Pickles.	5 jars Savoree.
4 packets Gravy Powder.	7 lb. Sugar.
3 packets Force meat.	3 tins Raising Powder.
6 lb. Flour.	3 lb. Cornflour.
12 packets Semolina.	2 tins Soup.
12 packets Peas.	2 tins Malted Food.
16 packets Salt.	1 packet Jelly Cream.
7lb. Lentils.	8 bottles Gravy Browning.
6 tins Malteup.	

Total Weight (Approx.) : 15 cwts. 3 qrs. 9 lbs.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

The Council still continue to operate the County Scheme for this District acting as Agents for the County Council. This scheme provides for County Districts to be responsible for the destruction of rats and mice on non-agricultural land. The County Council still retain their powers under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, although the question of delegation under this Act is at present under consideration. It appears that should delegation be granted, there would tend to be a certain amount of overlapping as the County Council have powers under the Rats Order, 1940, for agricultural land on behalf of the Cheshire War Agricultural Executive Committee.

The scheme during the year has operated very successfully and a number of contracts have been entered into, including several renewals of annual contracts upon business premises. The ready co-operation of Factory Managements in this latter respect is greatly appreciated and shows their willingness to keep the factories clear of rodents as far as is reasonably practicable.

Two rodent operatives are employed and they have been fully occupied during the year under review.

4,466 inspections were carried out by the rodent operatives, with 271 poisoning campaigns. The total amount of "poison take," i.e., poison and bait combined, on all campaigns was, Zinc Phosphide, 53 lb. 5½ ozs., Arsenic, 2 lb. 11 ozs., Red Squill, 5 lb. 10 ozs. In addition, four treatments have been given with Cymag Gas.

A formula for the calculation of estimated kill for the common rat, has been prepared by the Ministry of Food Infestation Branch, when Zinc Phosphide and Arsenic are used. Upon the results of the take of these two poisons in campaigns, a total kill of 2,240 rats is arrived at for the year. The number of bodies actually picked up were 373 rats and 177 mice.

A maintenance treatment upon the various lengths of sewers has also been carried out with "no take" recorded in each instance. This proved very satisfactory.

Sampling of Food and Drugs.

The Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department to the Cheshire County Council has kindly supplied me with the following particulars of samples obtained in the Urban District of Ellesmere Port and forwarded to the Public Analyst during the year ended 31st December, 1946.

List of Samples obtained in the Ellesmere Port Urban District during the year ended 31st December, 1946.

Name of Sample	Number of samples obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Butter	1	—
Bacon	1	—
Boracic Ointment	1	—
Baking Powder	1	—
Cooking Fat	1	—
Coffee	1	—
Cake Flour Mixture	1	—
Curry Powder... ..	1	—
Cinnamon	1	—
Iodine	1	—
Iodised Throat Tablets	1	1
Licquorice Powder... ..	1	—
Milk	49	5
Margarine	1	—
Malt Vinegar	1	—
Mustard	1	—
Orange Squash	1	—
Pepper	1	—
Rum	2	—
Semolina	1	—
Sugar	1	—
Sponge Mixture	1	—
Salt	1	—
Whisky	3	1
Zinc Ointment	2	—
Totals	77	7

Particulars regarding the seven non-standard samples are shown as follows:—

No.	Article	Result of Analysis	Remarks
1.	Milk.	8.3 per cent. deficient in Non-fatty Solids. Genuine but Abnormal.	No action.
2.	Milk.	21.6 per cent. deficient in fat and 3.5 deficient in Non-fatty Solids.	Seller Cautioned. See Nos. 3 and 4.
3.	Milk.	3.5 per cent. deficient in Non-fatty Solids.	"Appeal to Cow" samples re No. 2.
4.	Milk.	3.5 per cent. deficient in Non-fatty Solids.	
5.	Milk.	5.7 per cent. deficient in fat.	Seller Cautioned.
6.	Whisky	7.7 per cent. Excess Water.	Prosecuted and fined £10 and 10/6d. costs.
7.	Iodised Throat Tablets.	Devoid of Iodine.	Manufacturers Cautioned.

